



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 W. Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

December 15, 2006

PLYMOUTH MAN SENTENCED FOR FEMA FRAUD

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge John Antoon, II today sentenced MARVIN LEE WILLIAMS, 62, of Plymouth, Florida to two years probation and ordered him to pay restitution of \$6,358 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") for his involvement in FEMA fraud for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The sentence also calls for WILLIAMS to serve four months in home confinement and pay \$300 in special assessments.

WILLIAMS was indicted on May 24, 2006. On July 28, 2006, WILLIAMS pled guilty to three counts of theft of government property. According to the facts set forth in his Plea Agreement, WILLIAMS provided his social security number to two other individuals who used his name to submit three applications in WILLIAMS' name to FEMA for disaster assistance for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. In those applications, it was falsely represented that WILLIAMS had been a resident of Louisiana at the time of Hurricane Katrina or Texas at the time of Hurricane Rita and that WILLIAMS was eligible for disaster assistance from FEMA.

In reliance on those misrepresentations, FEMA sent three United States Treasury checks made payable to WILLIAMS for “disaster assistance.” One check was for Hurricane Katrina in the amount of \$2,358. The other two checks were for Hurricane Rita in the amount of \$2,000 each. WILLIAMS cashed those three checks despite the fact that he has lived in Florida his whole life and that he was not eligible for any “disaster assistance” for Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

WILLIAMS is one of twenty-six individuals who were charged in Operation “Storm Chaser” that was aimed at detecting and prosecuting instances of fraud in Central Florida related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. To date, twenty-four of those defendants have been sentenced. Eleven have been sentenced to prison terms. Thirteen individuals, including WILLIAMS, were sentenced to probation. All twenty-four individuals have been ordered to re-pay the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the amounts that they stole.

These case were investigated by the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, with assistance from the U.S. Marshal’s Service. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg.

These cases are part of the effort by the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force to prosecute disaster-related crimes from last year’s hurricanes. The Task Force was created in September 2005 by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, investigate, and prosecute federal crimes arising from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division, includes members of the Secret Service, the Postal Inspector’s Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others.